United Nations E/2006/NGO/32

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
16 May 2006

Original: English

Substantive session of 2006
Geneva, 3-28 July 2006
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development

Statement submitted by Mumbai Educational Trust, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2006/100.

06-35153 (E) 160606

Statement

The Mumbai Educational Trust (MET) has been empowering the youth ever since its inception in 1989 in Mumbai ((State of Maharashtra, India). It conducts high technology based professional programmes in the fields of Management, Information Technology and Medicine. MET is an NGO that enjoys ECOSOC Special Consultative Status since 2003.

We would like to mention our two key learning programmes undertaken in the rural and urban context namely

1. Project Truth — Total Rural Upliftment Through Holistic Care
2. Mumbai University Sesquicentenary Quest (MUSESQ)

1. Project Truth — Total Rural Upliftment Through Holistic Care

This project aims at the holistic development of the indigenous people located in denuded forest areas 40 km. North of Mumbai. Here it came to our realization that these indigenous people prefer conventional options of self employment such as cattle rearing and livestock farming. This was especially helpful towards the empowerment of the usually marginalized womenfolk resulting in productive and decent employment for them. Similarly the setting up of a center for tribal art and culture has also proved useful in tapping the high potential of the young children. Finally, a programme involving generation of electricity from bio wastes ensures round the year employment to these tribals resulting in decent work and overall rural upliftment.

2. Mumbai University Sesquicentenary Quest (MUSESQ)

The second programme is based on the launch of 150 missions to commemorate 150 years of the Mumbai University and will be launched by Dr. Abdul Kalam — Honourable President of India. The mission's aim at achieving both the MDGs as well as reaching out to the urban poor. The students of MET will be actively working in achieving the missions in accordance with the desired output. Thus the MUSESQ helps in building the youth with a sense of social responsibility which in turn would impact their work attitude and performance, resulting in decent employment and enable them to value laws.

As the entire project focuses on the underdeveloped communities especially indigenous communities, MET feels that if technology based interventions like utilization of bio-wastes and weeds for critical energy production would succeed then sustained decent employment will surely not be a pipe dream.

United Nations E/2006/NGO/33

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
16 May 2006

Original: English

Substantive session of 2006
Geneva, 3-28 July 2006
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development

Statement submitted by National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2006/100.

06-35321 (E) 130606

Statement

The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO), a non-governmental organization based in the United States of America, welcomes the opportunity to submit a brief statement to the United Nation's Economic and Social Council on the intersection between housing and employment.

The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) is a professional membership organization comprised of 21,227 housing and community development agencies and officials throughout the United States who administer a variety of affordable housing and community development programs at the local level. NAHRO's mission is to create affordable housing and safe, viable communities that enhance the quality of life for all Americans, especially those of low- and moderate-income by:

- Ensuring that housing and community development professionals have the leadership skills, education, information and tools to serve communities in a rapidly changing environment;
- Advocating for appropriate laws and policies which are sensitive to the needs of the people served, are financially and programmatically viable for our industry, are flexible, promote deregulation and local decision making; and
- Fostering the highest standards of ethical behavior, service and accountability.

NAHRO enhances the professional development and effectiveness of its members through its comprehensive professional development curriculum conferences and publications. Through these efforts we are working to equip NAHRO and our membership with the skills, knowledge, and abilities necessary to survive and prosper in a changing environment, and make our Association more efficient and effective.

Throughout its history, NAHRO's membership has experienced first-hand the positive impact decent, safe affordable shelter can have on low-income families' economic success. Conversely, NAHRO members also see first-hand the devastating impact poor shelter can have on limiting economic opportunities for families. Just as water is the number one common thread that provides the basis for all people in this world to survive, decent, safe and affordable shelter is the common thread needed by everyone to achieve any measure of economic success. Adequate shelter may mean different things to different people based on their income; however, it is the basic element of life, the water of our economic growth.

Far too many families world-wide spend more than 50 percent of their income on shelter. This creates economic hardships on low-income families and makes it difficult to achieve any reasonable measure of economic success. The stress and uncertainty created by expensive shelter leads to inadequate resources for basic necessities of life such as food, clothing and adequate health care. This creates an environment that limits opportunities for children to grow in a healthy, nurturing environment.

NAHRO strongly suggests that the Council take time from its current deliberations to devote a good portion of its discussions on the intersection between housing and economic success. The Council should strongly recommend that any employment policy must include a strong housing component that ensures that decent, safe affordable shelter is available to low-income families.

United Nations E/2006/NGO/34

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
16 May 2006

Original: English

Substantive session of 2006
Geneva, 3-28 July 2006
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development

Statement submitted by the Institute for the Development of Education, Arts and Leisure, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2006/100

06-35405 (E) 140606

Statement

In its statement, I.D.E.A.L., the Institute for the Development of Education, Arts and Leisure, demonstrates by example in British Columbia, Canada, "how we have planned the adoption of the above theme in our activities" and future projects.

In 1993, Dr. Natacha Kolesar, founder and president, with a group of parents, professionals from different countries initiated a *new educational system* on 800 gorgeous acres in Jaffray, British Columbia, Canada, offering a wide range of knowledge in the fields of self-development and human behaviour, the arts, natural health, organic gardening, educational travel and leisure activities.

Most of the day's activities are planned and shared collectively, with respect to each individual's aptitudes and the search for a balance between our inner/outer selves. Community life includes sharing garden, kitchen and homecare duties, in the belief that all forms of activities can offer an opportunity for education. There are over 30 educators teaching the children at I.D.E.A.L. and some are donating their times and talents in the neighbouring schools and communities of British Columbia and beyond!

With respect to "generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development", the 75 permanent residents of I.D.E.A.L. share material possessions, living space and food production.

At I.D.E.A.L., the educational activities are incorporated into a collective living experience which is used as a site of apprenticeship and a tool for learning. The educational system is based on the three-fold structure of the human being, the intellect, the heart and will, and on their different needs and functions. Our goal is to create activities and exercises to feed these different sides of our being: our mental, emotional and physical bodies.

I.D.E.A.L. is contributing to the concepts stated in the World Declaration on Education for All (1990).The I.D.E.A.L. community also incorporates the "four pillars" of education in daily life:

- learning to know, that is acquiring the instruments of understanding
- learning to do, so as to be able to act creatively on one's environment
- learning to live together, so as to participate and cooperate with other people in all human activities, and
- learning to be, which is about individual development and the shaping of the personality which starts with knowing oneself

I.D.E.A.L. offers a global approach to parenting covering not only the period of gestation, but also the pre-conception and post-natal periods. I.D.E.A.L. is planning to build a prenatal education centre where specialists in various fields will assist, instruct, and prepare future parents, pregnant women and young students from local and international communities. Therese Plair, a United Nations representative for I.D.E.AL. has initiated a prenatal centre in New York.

Utilizing I.D.E.A.L.'s philosophy of creativity, beauty, and "education through experience", many participants, guests, and visitors have been given an opportunity to develop an exciting and totally different work for themselves to share with others around the world.

United Nations E/2006/NGO/35

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
16 May 2006

Original: English

Substantive session of 2006
Geneva, 3-28 July 2006
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development

Statement submitted by Osservatorio per la Comunicazione Culturale e l'Audiovisivo nel Mediterraneo e nel Mondo, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2006/100.

06-35429 (E) 130606

Statement

The VI Infopoverty Conference,

Conscious of the fact that digital revolution could transform societies in generating productive employment and decent work for all;

Reaffirming the new forms of international assistance and support that provides opportunities to create a larger impact on the living conditions of people living in the rural developing countries;

Recognizing that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can become the engine of growth, and that their diffusion should be accessible to all countries, particularly the low-income countries;

Recognizing the importance, as a tool for self-sustainable development through ICTs, of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), signed during the Tunis WSIS by ITU, Navajo Nation and OCCAM;

Also Recognizing that the role played by the Infopoverty Programme promoted by Observatory Cultural and Audiovisual (OCCAM) for the creation of ICT Villages Services provided such as telemedicine, e-learning, e-commerce – have begun to contribute to the process of poverty eradication and improvement of living conditions particularly in low-income countries, and for disadvantaged communities and indigenous peoples.

The VI Infopoverty Conference decides to:

Appreciate the continued patronage of the President of the Italian Republic for the realization of the Infopoverty World Conferences;

Congratulate the President of the Dominican Republic for the realization of the ICT Village of Constanza and the President of Madagascar for the realization of the ICT Village of Sambaina as prototype of implementation of country-wide projects;

Also Congratulate the President of the Navajo Nation for the successful implementation of its ICT system on all Navajo territories, under a concept of technology with tradition and preservation of values and culture; this could be a model to replicate in other parts of the world toward reaching self sustainable development;

Recommends the creation of a broadband satellite platform able to provide basic e-services for development such as telemedicine, e-learning, e-governance;

Call on all stakeholders to support the following initiatives recommended by the VI Infopoverty Conference:

- *Invite ICT users* (NGOs, public and private institutions) to converge and create homogeneous bulk purchases in order to improve services according to their needs at lower costs and plan GRID-Centres of Excellence to research and develop innovative tools and services fit to the needs of developing and emerging countries

- *Invite* institutions active in the field of international development assistance to devote a significant percentage of their development assistance projects aimed at bridging the digital divide

- *Call* on ICT industries to donate/ sell at very low costs hardware, software and services in order to facilitate access to the digital revolution to the developing countries, particularly low-income countries; to promote and diversify cooperation with the ECOSOC pilot countries of the United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development and the Global Compact

- *Requests* OCCAM to report at the VII Infopoverty Conference a report on the progress achieved in mobilizing support and its impact on the identified countries for partnerships and to convene leaders at the highest level from countries that can share their experiences and challenges in the fight against poverty through connectivity

United Nations E/2006/NGO/36

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
16 May 2006

Original: English

Substantive session of 2006
Geneva, 3-28 July 2006
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Creating an environment at the national and international level, conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development

Statement submitted by Jigyansu Tribal Research Centre, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2006/100.

06-35441 (E) 140606

Statement

Jigyansu Tribal Research Centre (JTRC) has been reaching out since the seventies to marginalized and economically under privileged people, living in Rural Areas, Tribal Areas and remote Areas. Hence, its efforts in Socio-Economic Development in such areas have always included eradication of poverty and hunger, for the past three decades. Accordingly, JTRC has included the process of education (Formal and Non-Formal), Capacity Building and Training in income generation and Socio-Economic Initiatives, Skill Development and Career Education for Youth and Women, as well as creating linkages for Traditional Craftsmen, Capacitated Volunteers and other Employable and Self-Employable Youth, Women and Men in such remote Areas, with Financial Institutions, Marketing Infrastructure as well as Skilled Management of Small Self-Employment Units, known as Mahila Mandals, Youth Forums, Self-Help Groups and Civil Society alternatives.

JTRC has been working for the development and welfare of Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and other Backward Classes and the Economically Marginalized; through its 11 branches and about 30 Project Offices in India in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Delhi and the North Eastern Himalayan States of Assam, Arrunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland, Mizoram and Sikkim. Since its inception in 1979; JTRC has worked with 55 lakh ST/SC people and about 5 lakh children through its Research and Evaluation Division, Training and Capacity Building Division, Sustainable Development Division and Communication Publication Division.

JTRC has worked in a big way with Child Workers for the past two decades. The social inequality of child labour has continued as an aftermath of factors like colonization, Agricultural Economy with undefined land holding system resulting in higher number of landless workers, lack of developing base line economic structure for the uneducated and semi-educated masses living in the Rural, remote areas. Unequal distribution of resources and capital assets, redundant or non-functioning capacity building and training infrastructure; as well as absence of credit and marketing linkages in such countries. Working children, mainly come under the unorganized system of contract labour, free labour, low wages in the Agriculture sector, family business and land holdings as well as small business units in economically vulnerable remote areas.

JTRC has taken this cause in a big way, by organizing Educational and Economic Rehabilitation Projects for child workers, street children, Rag-Picker Children and Bonded Child Labour through Non-Formal Education, Mainstreaming, and Support Service to avoid dropouts and skill development as well as career education. JTRC has also conducted regular dialogues through community programmes, Out Reach Area discussions, Seminars, Workshops and Conferences.

Vision and Future Plan:

JTRC would like to add alternative income generation, Entrepreneurship Development, Skill Development Technical Education etc. and a strong Employment/Self-Employment information and placement infrastructure to this effort.